

**Council Chambers, Municipal Building, Baraboo, Wisconsin**  
**Tuesday, May 19, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.**

Mayor Palm called the regular meeting of Council to order.

Roll call was taken.

Council Members Present: Wedekind, Kolb, Plautz, Kent, Petty, Ellington, Sloan, Kierzek, Thurow

Council Members Absent:

Others Present: Chief Schauf, Clerk Zeman, Adm. Downing, Atty. Truman, C. Haggard, K. Stieve, J. Bergin, T. Pinion, members of the press and others.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Moved by Kolb, seconded by Ellington and carried to approve the agenda, 9-ayes.

**Compliance with the Open Meeting Law was noted.**

**PRESENTATIONS**

- Mayor Palm read the National Public Works Week Proclamation for May 17 – 23, 2020.
- Update from Fire Chief Kevin Stieve regarding our Emergency Operations.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Moved by Petty, seconded by Sloan, to enter Committee of the Whole to discuss items related to how the City is affected by COVID-19, 9-ayes

- (1) The WI Supreme Court May 13, 2020, decision striking down Emergency Order #28 and what that means for the City of Baraboo,

Ald. Plautz questioned when the Library will open and if they are currently working on procedures to keep the public safe when they do reopen. J. Bergin stated that the Library is currently scheduled to open on Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. The guidelines for entering the Library will be posted.

- (2) The Mayor's repeal of the Mayor's Emergency Declaration and Proclamation, and

Mayor Palm noted that as of last Thursday, we concluded our Emergency Declaration but is strongly suggested that people still follow the recommendations that were made under Emergency Order #28 such as social distancing, washing your hands, groups of less than 10, etc. It is also recommended that businesses comply with the recommendations provided by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation guidelines for reopening their business.

Ald. Plautz questioned the groups of 10 for churches, as many will have more than 10 in attendance. Atty. Truman advised that with the lifting of Order #28 that also lifted the requirements for social distancing, the groups of 10 is no longer a requirement. The Sauk County Health Dept. as well as the City's Health Dept. chose not to make any comparable orders and all recommendations are advisory.

- (3) Whether the City Council should adopt a new Emergency Declaration per §1.33(b)(7) of the City Code pertaining to actions under the control of the City Council, including, but possibly not limited to:

- (a) Whether to keep City Hall closed to non-City groups wanting to use the space for meetings.

Ald. Petty questioned allowing groups no larger than 10 to use the space at City Hall. What enforcement action can the City really take? With no restrictions, what enforcement action can the City

really take? Atty. Truman explained that if a community wanted to take some kind of rule or order it would have to be in Ordinance form to take any criminal action. What we are looking at is more of a policy change. If we were to extend requirements outside of City Hall to the public, it would have to be an Ordinance.

Ald. Kent questioned if there is currently a policy for employees at City Hall requiring employees and/or temperature checks. Would a policy for this fall into place? Mayor Palm explained that we currently do not have a requirement for employees to wear masks. We are currently utilizing plexi-glass dividers between staff and residents coming into the building. The Sauk County Health Dept. has not made this requirement. Adm. Downing stated that local health guidelines/rules could be established if the Council wanted to require employees and/or residents visiting City Hall to use masks or follow the 10-person restriction. Atty Truman confirms this but reminds the Council that the Health Dept. is not requiring this.

Ald. Petty's opinion is that the City not supersede the Sauk County Public Health recommendation. He doesn't feel the City is in a position to supersede the outlay of Public Health but the recommendations from our own public health employees.

Fire Chief Stieve explained that we do have in our building plans that employees with a fever will not be allowed into work. Masks are optional based on social distancing. The layout at City Hall naturally provides for social distancing. He agrees with Ald. Petty for creating additional rules and feels this will create confusion among the community.

Chief Schauf explained that his officers are encouraged to take their temperature before their shift and there is an exposure protocol if they encounter anyone they either suspect or has known Covid-19. His concern with requiring masks is that people that are not trained in how to use them, use them inappropriately and actually create a higher contamination risk. As for the building, the security of this building was designed with a setup that does not allow non-city employees into staff areas. We have taken steps to eliminate or reduce the chance of any social contraction of Covid-19.

Ald. Kolb noted that if we allowed outside groups to use the meeting room, how much burden that adds to the maintenance staff. C. Haggard explained that she is hoping maintenance will be made aware of the scheduled meetings and can address the room after the meeting. Ald. Kolb feels it is the responsibility of those using the rooms to disinfect it. It was decided that anyone reserving space at City Hall will be required to disinfect the room prior to leaving the building.

- (b) Whether to continue to automatically allow and encourage City Council and other City governmental meetings to have remote participation from all members, staff and the public.

Atty. Truman reminds the Council that the Ordinance that was recently passed allows for Council members, Department Heads, and City Staff to attend a meeting remotely. It does not allow for the public to attend meetings remotely. Mayor Palm questions if Council members want to continue meeting remotely or go back to in-person meetings.

Moved by Ellington, seconded by Thurow to suspend Council Rule §2.04(15) of the City Code, as allowed by §2.04(20) of the City Code, to allow the action to be formally acted on within Committee of the Whole, 9-aye

Motion by Kolb, seconded by Thurow, to extend the ability to conduction meeting remotely for 60 days, to July 19, 2020, 9-aye

Moved by Ellington, seconded by Kolb, to rise and report from Committee of the Whole and return to regular session, 9-ayes

**ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

- Update by City Administrator on small business and non-profit loan programs.

**REPORTS, PETITIONS, AND CORRESPONDENCE** The City acknowledges receipt and distribution of the following:

- **Reports:** None
- **Minutes from the Following Meetings:** None
- **Petitions and Correspondence Attached – Not Being Referred:**
  - Letter of thanks from the following: All Lacure'd Up, SP Hair Studio and the Cookie Lady.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Kolb, seconded by Wedekind that the meeting adjourn at 7:53pm, 9-ayes

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Brenda Zeman, City Clerk